

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A porous substrate comprising: a support; and an inorganic porous region on a surface of said support, the inorganic porous region having a surface capable of immobilizing probe molecules, the inorganic porous region having a tint and exhibiting a reduced level of auto-fluorescence of at least about 15% relative to a comparable non-tinted porous substrate surface, wherein said tint comprises Co_3O_4 and NiO .
2. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said porous region having a tint reduces said relative auto-fluorescence levels by at least about 20% over said non-tinted porous substrate surface.
3. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 2, wherein said porous region having a tint reduces said relative auto-fluorescence levels by at least about 50% over said non-tinted porous substrate surface.
4. (cancelled)
5. (original) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said reduction in auto-fluorescence is over a wavelength range from about 400 nm to about 720 nm.
6. (cancelled)
7. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said tinted porous region further comprises a transition metal ion.
8. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic porous region consists essentially of:

Oxide	wt. %
SiO ₂	53-67
Al ₂ O ₃	3-10
B ₂ O ₃	12-24
K ₂ O	0-5
MgO	0-2
CaO	0.5-3
SrO	0-3
BaO	2-7
Sb ₂ O ₃	0-2

and said tint includes Co₃O₄ and NiO in the following weight percent:

Co ₃ O ₄	0.1-9
NiO	0.1-10

9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic porous region has a composition consisting essentially of:

Oxide	wt. %
SiO ₂	55-65
Al ₂ O ₃	4-9
B ₂ O ₃	14-21
K ₂ O	1-5
MgO	0.1-2
CaO	1-2.5
SrO	0.5-1.75
BaO	3-5
Sb ₂ O ₃	0-2
R _x O _y	0-2

and said tint includes Co₃O₄ and NiO in the following weight percent:

Co ₃ O ₄	0.1-8
NiO	0.1-10

wherein R is a transition metal selected from the group consisting of Fe, V, and Cu, and x and y are each ≥ 0 .

11. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 8, wherein said composition has a coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) of between about $35\text{--}44 \times 10^{-7}/^{\circ}\text{C}$.

12. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 11, wherein said composition has a CTE of about $38\text{--}40 \times 10^{-7}/^{\circ}\text{C}$.

13. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said tinted region has an average auto-fluorescence background for Cy3 and Cy5 channels of up to about 50% RFU of said un-tinted porous substrate.

14. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein a number of biological or chemical probes are attached at defined locations on or within said tinted porous layer.

15. (original) The porous substrate according to claim 13, wherein said defined locations of probes assume a microarray format of at least one microspot per cm^2 .

16. (original) The porous substrate according to claim 13, wherein said defined locations of probes assume a microarray format of at least 10 microspots per cm^2 .

17. (original) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said probe molecules include at least one kind of species selected from the following: oligonucleotides, nucleotides, nucleosides, DNA, RNA, peptide nucleic acid (PNA), peptides, polypeptides, protein domains, proteins, fusion proteins, antibodies, protein-membranes, G-coupled protein receptors, gangliosides, lipids, lipid membranes, cells or cell membranes, cell-lysate, or protein-small molecule ligands.

18. (previously presented) A tool for performing biological or chemical assays, the tool comprises a non-porous support; and an inorganic porous region on a surface of said

support, the inorganic porous region having a surface capable of immobilizing probe molecules, the inorganic porous region having a tint and exhibiting a reduced level of auto-fluorescence of at least about 15% relative to a comparable non-tinted porous substrate surface, wherein said tint comprises Co_3O_4 and NiO .

19. (previously presented) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said porous region having a tint reduces said relative auto-fluorescence levels by at least about 20% over said non-tinted porous substrate surface.

20. (previously presented) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said tinted porous region further comprises a transition metal ion.

21. (previously presented) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said inorganic porous region consists essentially of:

Oxide	wt. %
SiO_2	53-67
Al_2O_3	3-10
B_2O_3	12-24
K_2O	0-5
MgO	0-2
CaO	0.5-3
SrO	0-3
BaO	2-7
Sb_2O_3	0-2
R_xO_y	0-10

and Co_3O_4 and NiO in the following weight percent:

Co_3O_4	0.1-9
NiO	0.1-10

wherein R is a transition metal, and x and y are each > 0 .

22. (original) The tool according to claim 21, wherein said R is selected from the group consisting of Fe, V, and Cu.

23. (original) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said probe molecules are biological or chemical molecules, including at least one kind of the following: oligonucleotides, nucleotides, nucleosides, DNA, RNA, peptide nucleic acid (PNA), peptides, polypeptides, protein domains, proteins, fusion proteins, antibodies, gangliosides, membrane proteins, lipids, lipid membranes, cellular membranes, cell lysates, oligosaccharides, or polysaccharides, or lectins.

24. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 1, said porous region further comprising pores having pore sizes of about 5 μm .

25. (previously presented) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said porous region has pore sizes between about 0.5 μm to about 1.0 μm .

26. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 8, further comprising a transition metal R alone or in oxide composition R_xO_y wherein x and y are each > 0 .

27. (new) The porous substrate according to claim 26, wherein said R is selected from the group consisting of Fe, V, and Cu.

28. (new) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic porous region comprises a glass frit.

29. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 28, wherein said glass frit comprises, in weight percent, the following oxides:

Oxide	wt. %
SiO_2	53-67
Al_2O_3	3-10
B_2O_3	12-24

K ₂ O	0-5
MgO	0-2
CaO	0.5-3
SrO	0-3
BaO	2-7
Sb ₂ O ₃	0-2.

30. (previously presented) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said support comprises an aluminosilicate glass.